

Right place, right time, right reward

Firefighter from Duxbury honored at awards ceremony

By Fred Hanson
GATEHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

A Duxbury firefighter was recognized last Thursday for risking his life to save others.

Duxbury Firefighter/Paramedic John Montosi, who was able to rescue an elderly, disabled woman from a Pembroke house that was fully involved in fire on Jan. 13.

In all, 67 firefighters from around the state were cited for heroism and community service during the 20th annual Firefighter of the Year Heroic Awards at the Hanover Theatre in Worcester. The ceremony was part of the solemn observance of the 10th anniversary of the Worcester Cold Storage Warehouse fire, which claimed the lives of six Worcester firefighters.

Gov. Deval Patrick and Lt. Gov. Timothy Murray, a former Worcester mayor, presented the awards.

Patrick praised firefighters as men and women of action.

"Our gratitude isn't limited to one day or one occasion," he said.

The governor also commended the families of firefighters, who share in the anxieties and sacrifices of their loved ones.

Montosi was off-duty when he saw smoke and followed it to the fire at a Valley Street home.

"Under conditions of fast-moving fire and heavy smoke and without personal protective clothing, he was able to break a window and remove a trapped elderly woman" through a first-floor window, said Undersecretary of Public Safety and Security Kurt Schwartz. "Firefighter Montosi further assisted Pembroke firefighters with patient care including transporting the woman to the hospital."

Montosi received the Medal of Valor.

After the ceremony, Montosi said the rescue was something he would do on or off duty.

"You see a fire and do what you can to help," said Montosi, who is in his fourth year on the department. "I was lucky to be in the right place at the right time."



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Duxbury Firefighter John Montosi receives the medal of valor from Governor Deval Patrick at a ceremony last week in Worcester.